DEPT. OF WORK IN ALASKA

NOV 1 2 1957

ANNUAL REPORT 1957 Rev. William Zeiger

On August 1, 1957 I was assigned to the Princeton-Hall motorship. The first part of the year was spent completing studies for a B.D. degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary. After graduation on June 4th, I was married to Miss Gertrude Holabird in Ukiah, California at the First Baptist Church on June 9th. Ordination took place at the Foster Presbyterian Church on June

23rd, and we left for Alaska on July 4th.

Our first assignment was to assist Rev. Paul Moser in Ketchikan for one month during July. My work consisted of calling, assisting in worship services, and organizing a week long retreat which fell through after preparation and advertizing due to unusual circumstances. Half of the staff backed out at the last minute and the Willis Shank arrived on the scene to take all comers for a free two-week cruise. Consequently registrations failed to come in. Our camp was planned for the junior age level.

The calling in Ketchikan was concentrated on problem families in the church, inactive members, and hospital visitation. In the latter, much time was spent counselling a 19 year old boy who had attempted suicide three times. The last time he had shot himself painfully in the stomack. The fact that he had not aimed for a more vital spot indicated that he desired attention more than death. The outcome of the counselling is not known since he was transferred to Seattle for treatment of adhesions. However, some

seeds were planted.

Several families have been coming to church mork regularly since the visitations, yet the turnover continues to be great. Paul needs to have a full time social worker to handle the type of problems which his church faces. We have talked this over before. Many of the people who come into Ketchikan are from outlying villages. They are disoriented job-wise, socially, and in many instances, religiously. They fail to keep their ties with the church. The reasons for this are various, but the preoccupation of job-hunting, getting settled, and lack of vision concerning a concept of the larger church family seem to be high on the list. Their church in the community they came from is "their church" and the one where they have moved is regarded as a different church even though it is the same denomination. Most of these people are natives.

The concept of church stewardship and loyalty among many Presbyterians who come from the States seems to be lacking. This may be combined with some feeling cultural and color distinctions. The conclusions written above are based on the fact that the great majority of Presbyterians who come to Ketchikan from the States visit for a Sunday and, when they find the congregation is mixed, then move to the Methodist Church which is wholly Caucasian. In such cases, the people in question are still willing to give to missions where others are working among those of different cultural and racial backgrounds. People sense these differences and as long as this "polite aloofness" remains, the Church will fail to realize its own teachings. The situation in Ketchikan is repeated in a slightly different way in Juneau where there is a

mixed concreati

mixed congregation in the Memorial Church and a Caucasian group at Northern Light Church. The theme on race relations in the National-Foreign Missions study for this year is good for what ails us.

The assignment on the Princeton-Hall has involved mostly travel for conferences and one Presbyterial group. The high light of the year and perhaps for the last 50 years was the All Alaska workers' Conference which was held in Sitka during the last half of August. It was a top rate opportunity to become more acquainted not only with the overall mission problems of Alaska, but also the mission people of Alaska. I think it did much to consolidate our sense of family, of purpose, of calling in our Lord Jesus Christ. The boat trip, which brought workers from interior and Arctic Alaska, provided an opportunity to visit and to get acquainted with missionaries from widely seperated points. The boat's ministry in this case was to play host to fellowship of the Alaskan missionary fraternity.

At the end of the conference, the boat was again host, this time to Dr. Louis H. Evans and his wife. The weather cooperated to give them fine weather, rugged scenery, and a much needed rest.

The first weeks of September found us escorting a group of ladies of the Alaska Presbyterial to all of the churches in the Presbytery to conduct meetings. These meetings were meant to strengthen some groups, organize others, and reorganize some. Om occasion during this trip, the boat had a chance to do some calling when we tied up in out-of-the-way places. Once we ended up helping out an old fisherman whose gill net had become tangled. We later talked to an old prospector who has spent most of his life in this mountain-by-the-sea country. The latter was an intelligent, self-educated man who welcomed our offers of Presbyterian Life. In the course of our visits, it gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with many of the local people and to get a glimpse of some of the problems each pastor-missionary faced.

On this trip, we called into one of the logging camps and a native village without the services of a pastor. We held services both places. There was poor response at the logging camp, but those who came were very appreciative. At the village, everyone turned out, even people who weren't particularly interested. More seeds were planted. This village is served monthly by the

minister at Hydaburg.

The early weeks of October found us host to a movie-making company which was touring Alaska to make films for TV broadcast. They were on board for nearly a week, and we found that we had a ministry to them also. One fellow was an agnostic Unitarian by his own definition, another had no ties whatever; the movie making was just another job for him. So, we had work to do. The balance of that trip was spent taking a group of church delegates to a Stewardship & Promotion conference at Ketchikan.

This month, we went to Hoonah to have a service of recognition, a service for Rev. Arthur Johnson who recently went to that field. Then we went to Kake to help for a few days on the new manse which is being built for Rev. Charles Heier. The balance of the cruise will be spent calling.

With a new boat in prospect for the ministry in Southeast Alaska, it is too early for me to give a proper evaluation of the gains, needs, and directional guides as to the ministry of the boat. Part of this inability on my parts arises from the small amount of experience in the real work of the boat; calling on isolated families and logging communities. It seems that too much of the boat's time is used for transportation only rather than in making regular rounds in a consistant ministry. On the other hand, transportation is also a real need in the Presbytery where other facilities is lacking, not to mention additional costs whem traveling by other means. Another boat will change this picture when the needs of the area are evaluated and a decision made about the use of one or two boats in the program. This remains to be seen.

Last trip, we stopped at the logging camp in Neets Bay, about 30 miles north of Ketchikan. The response by the children in Sunday School indicated a great need for consistant and persistant efforts to provide them with continuous Christian education. All but one boy attended (he was hunting with his father). They took all of the material we had to offer. Later, I met with three of the mothers and explained the Faith & Life materials with them and left one set which will hold them this quarter. Two of the women were inexperienced but very willing to do something for their children. Isolation tended to sharpen their sense of values and in our visit they saw opportunity to provide the Christian training they were missing. If we can follow up regularly, an important work will bear fruit.

Respectfully submitted,

Arilliam Zeiger
Rev. William Zeiger

November 7, 1957 cc. Dr. J. Earl Jackman Rev. Brian Cleworth Suring

NARATIVE REPORT FOR 1957

PRINCETON HALL

As far as I can tell the ship has been carrying on a ministry this past year similare to that of several years. The boat continues to be the main contact between the Presbyterian Church and a large number of people scattered through out Southeastern Alaska. In our call, we have visited Coast Guard lighthouses, Cival Air Administration stations, logging camps from the size of over one hundred men down to the size of two men, canneries where there is just a watchman and his mamily, tiny fishing camps where there are only a few families, a Fish & Wildlife research station, and the new development at Glacier Bay National Park. In this calling we talk to people about their relationship to Christ and the Church, leave literature and helps for the spiritual life, Sunday School material, show moving pictures, conduct church services and in every way let people know that the Church is still interested in them.

In addition to this primary job the boat is also responsible for the transportation needs of the Presbytery. We furnished transportation for the meeting of Presbytery, took young people to and from two sessions of summer camp, carried workers to the All-Alaska Conference, Showed the Minister-At-Large some of the work of the area and transported a team of women from the Presbyterial Society to the various churches of the area.

For six weeks this summer the boat carried a team who conducted Vacation Bible school in the canneries. The boat furnished living quarters for this staff and in some cases was even used for class room space.

In between all this the boat hauled freight for the various mission stations and the missionaries. Sometimes material was on board for awhile but we eventually got to the intended destination and unloaded. Under most circumstances we didnnot make a special trip for this purpose but included it in our regula itineration.

So the crew of the boat act as seaman, cooks, mechanics, longshoremen, ministers, evangelists, and pastors.

The boat has seen its way through another year and has gotton just a little more tired. The hull and engine are in fairly good shape but cabin leaks quite a bit of rain water. (I have to put up a can to keep the water from dripping in my face when I am in my bunk). We have a hard time keeping materials, supplies and guests dry.

There is still a great need for the ministry of the boat in the area espically since the growth of logging camps to supply the pulp mills. We have more places to visit than we can cover on a once-a-year basis. At nearly every spot people ask " when will you be back? " and I can't give any kind of a definite answer.

Butand T. Stussi

Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island Alaska

Nov. 13, 1957

Dear Dr. Jackman:

This natrative report for 1957 is really a pleasure to write. I still think a good Scripture for our village is John 16: 7-13 "When the pirit of Truth comes, He will guide youinto all truth." I Kings 3:9 "Give Thy servant understanding that I may discern between good and evil."

Jer. 2:13 "Evils -- forsaken me -- fountain of living waters -- hewed out cisterns for themselves -broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Problems:

1. Immorality- at least from our point of view -it sounds explainable when we consider their background and habits. Then we consider that the army boys, etc. act the same way and then the explanation is suddenly no good. They do not plan anything else much . Keeping certain relationships for marriage only would require planning and use of our minds as well as our emotions.

2. The youth problem is great for there are so many youth statistically now in Savoonga. There are more of the teenage group than at any other period. Greater numbers mean a greater drive and impact. That greater drive can get the whole group into trouble . I think they personally regret very much their actions after it is too late. One boy remarked to me, "They get as if drunk on beer." The shortage of girls here plus the fact that the parents hold to old patterns of planning marriages taking their own good time to do so adds to the trouble. A girl and boy wishing to marry a year age could not get the parents to consent. Of course, now she is pregnant. The arrangements are at last completed so they can marry now. If Art French could have come they would now be married.

3.A new problem of liquor presented itself in an ironic way when the army left Gambell neglecting to destroy their thousands of cases of liquore The elders assure me haey think it is all gone now so we well keep quiet about it. It makes me ill to think of the government whites bringing it into this village -brazenly up the walk to the schoolhouse all summer long. Then we tell the Eskimos they cannot and must hot have it. I am proud of one elder, Jimmie Toolie for going on record near Northeast Cape- witnessing to the whites and others: "Take that beer awayfrom here. We don't use it here and donet want it." (on occasion of being presented with a case for Christmas.) His hunting cabin was ruined by someone under influence of liquor last year so he is unusually emphatic.

4. Yes, they still gamble. Some of the godly righteous men try to stop it but it is such a problem that very very few young men do not do it. At least one nominee for a new elder had the good sense to turn down the nomination. Noone was nominated who gambled so the folks at least have learned something. That one who turned down the nomination

gambles.

4. I am not at all sure that the young people who joing the church on confession of faith as Christ as Savior really understand the meaning of a profession of faith. I fear they join because they are age 12 and naturally join the Presbyterian Church. I have one boy age 13 who has refused to come to the classes. He is the only one not a member of the Presbyterian groups. One boy on hearing that many in the states were not Christian remarked, "Why don't they force them?"

6. Fear of devilo- pagenisms - I wonder how long st taken for most consecrated of them to throw them

New Ideas

The weekly movies in the village have certainly changed life. They really love the movies! They plan all week on how to get that quarter by Saturday or even more often during the week. I hever knew there was so much money available in the village. I fear my stock was a bit low Sunday for mentioning the \$12.00 or more per year for each adult compared to their giving for their church. (This part I did not mention--pennies for the Lord or a dollar a year for the Lord--compared to the movie tickets) One woman did object for her husband gave them nickels for church offering and quarters for the movie. I'm happy she noticed that.

The free pol and many other supplies from the army leaving Gambell have made a difference in material possessions here and some necessities. There is now an armory all completed in the middle of the green of Savoonga where community activities can be held. Last night a civil marriage ceremony

was held there ewhich was very nice.

Points of Encouragement

1. We had our first wedding-only wedding-during my term with the couple planning the marriage before living together. Their baby arrived in proper time after marriage. The idea is starting to get across that they should have license before living together. One deacon refused a quilt to a couple for they had no license. About five or six families would like to hold that standard out of the fifty four families.

2. The folks show a loving concern for their church-expecially the officers. I have more respect for them than everm and know I can trust them for many decisions. It is amazing how my confidence has grown in them over a term here. They are the same so it must be me that is different.

3. The youth have great respect for old age. If there ever is a time when

that breaks down there could be serious trouble.

4.We have our first girl out to school in the history of the villagea Pungowiyi of course. We have three then in Sheldon Jackson and five in Mt. Edgecumbe School. We had our first high school graduate from Mt. Edgecumbe this year. He wished to go to college but true to their putting things off habit he has not completed the plans. Some characteristics still hang on after four years of high school.

5. Even if mixed with paganisms they pray thanks to the Creater if they shoot a polar bear-as they did enroute from Gambell when I was along. I think they know where their help is and that one can ask for it.

6. The high regard for the Bible and an understanding of the importance of reading for ourselves was shown by one remark. "I notice different interpreters say the Scripture differently. I want to see what it says for myself."

7. The great desire to do aj job for a worship service with dignity and as carefully as they can -- at least the adults feel this way.

8. The teachers study every week with me on the Faith and Life lessons. I could not have a more consecrated group for their task.

General

It is too bad that at the end of my term I feel that peace and quiet about life here I should have felt all along. The conference at Sitka -in fact, the whole month of August out-helped me trust more . Now when something serious occurs in I am able to say, "Now, watch it, this is what your Christian faith is for." It is amazing how trusting over every little details and plans to the Lord can make everything seem right.

Sincarely, Louise Avery Slease keture to DEPT, OF WORK IN ALASKA

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3217 Wyoming Drive Spenard, Alaska November 14, 1957 MOV 1 8 1957

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT - 1957

During the year of 1957 the Woodland Park section of Spenard in general has continued to grow. Many new homes have been constructed; these homes range from the small one or two bedroom cabin, to a \$25,000 and \$30,000 home. There is still the problem of the retating population. A large percentage of this population is service personnel. Most every trailer court in the vicinity has increased by at least a third. The progressed school building program includes a grade school in this area within the next five years. The schools are overcrowded right now and find it necessary to use the two shift time schedule. With the growing importance of our international airport, downtown Spenard is developing with more permanent stores and businesses. Our church therefore still faces the problems of a growing community, and although our numbers of people may increase during the growing stages of this period the various incomes are eaten up in the terrific expenses of just starting a home.

One of the big disappointments of our church for this year came with the realization that we would not yet be able to make the step into self support. Although this might appear to be a set back, when the actual figures of the financial report and the things accomplished through out the year are seen, we see that the church is definitely moving forward. We are beginning to see ourselves being relieved of the terrific financial burden of building debts. The problem of having a Sunday school composed of so large a number of children whose parents do not support the church in any other way then the Sunday offering that the child brings has also been a financial load to carry. Yet the amount of money spent has been worth every cent for we believe we have helped these children and have reached into many homes which have not responded to the church's call other than by sending their children.

With the annual congregation meeting being held January 6 our church year started its various programs pointing towards Easter at which time we would receive new members into the church. The young people's organizations both the Sr Hi and Jr. Hi Westminster F llowship continued their programs under the same sponsorship. The Jr Hi WF continued to grow offering excellent prospects for the following year's Sr Hi group. The attendance at Sunday school during this period remained high. It was obvious that if we were to handle this number of young people in our limited physical facilities that some change in our schedule would be needed. Double sesion of Sunday school running concurrently with the morning service was considered by the session, church officers and church school dept. The adult organization of the church continued to maintain their high standards of activities. Some of the highlights of this period were the sponsoring of Paul Rohwer by the Presbyterian Men to attend the Nat-

ional Monvention of Presbyterian Men in San Francisco in February, this meeting was a tremendous inspiration to Paul and he has brought back to our group as well as speaking to other groups in town; the meeting of Presbyterian and Presbyterial with such outstanding speakers as Dr. Harry Rine DeYoung and Miss Dorothy Foster; an outstanding group of plays sponsored by the women of our church, including the play of the National Women's Board "No Hands but Mine"; a wonderful series of family nights including one based on the excavations of the city of Mizpah with actual artefacts and slides and a second based on the National Women's study of the United Nations which included a supper consisting of dishes from 13 different nations, exhibits from these nations as well as a model of United Nations itself with pertinent information, the evening concluded with the showing of Danny Kaye's film "Assignment Children"; In March with so many activities planned for this month we decided to hold our One Great Hour of Sharing in the first two weeks of the month. Our results were far more than we had ever given before; it was not just material growth that was so gratifying, but more so the fact that the material growth resulted from increased spiritual growth. Wednesday night the 24 of April was the occasion for a lovely open house held at the manse which served as a farewell party for the pastor and his family who were leaving on furlough. It was with sincere appreciation and gratitude that Mrs. Weeks, the children and I left on our furlough for we realized what it meant to our own church under the present set up with the Board of National Missions to assume 80% of the cost of the furlough.

Buring the four months that Mrs. Weeks and I were on furlough we were most fortunate in having at the beginning the chaplains here at the local Air Force Base to be followed by Dr. and Mrs. Burney Shell from Arkansas. The attivities and needs of the church were cared for in a most excellent way in spite of the handicap of the summer slump. It was wonderful to know that while we were on furlough weadid not need to worry because we had absolute confidence in the session, deacons, and trustees. We knew that our replacements would have the support we needed to perform this task. Our furlough trip proved to be one of those which we often dreamed about but never expected to really have. We were thrilled and enjoyed every minute of it. It was so good to get back to 156 and visit with the folks there as well as to have a chance to visit one of our supporting churches at Huntingdon Valley, Penn. Altogether we spoke some 24 times with and without slide on the work of our church in Alaska. One of the main highlights of the trip was attendance at the first Alll Alaska Conference of our church held at Sitka, We felt that this was of tremendous value to everyone who attended. It was imprtant to us to see the work of our church as a whole here in Alaska as well as to meet the individual workers and their families. The end of the furlough was highlighted by the welcome home that the pastor received. It was a real thrill to come home and find tha the men had done so much work in helping to finish the manse such as getting the tiling down on the floors. The

young people in the Junior Department had planted flowers in front of the church and the manse yard was aglow with beautiful flowers in bloom. The ladies of the church had seen to it that the manse was clean, food in the cupboards and cheery greetings all over the house.

The highlight of our fall season was our week of Spirtiual Emphasis . We had the happy and inspirational experience of having with us Dr. and Mrs. S.J. Russell Ensign from the First Presbyterian Church, Whittier, California. His message, friendship and guidance both in our spiritual life and church organization were of tremendous value, We feel that their visit was most worthwhile and we are sincerely grateful. It was at this same time that we were able to meet with Dr. ackman and talk over the present and future financial status and program of our church. During this meeting it was decided that we were not yet ready to become a self supporting church, we are setting this as our goal for January 1, 1960/ Our hope is that by the end of next year we can have paid off most of our debts and are in state of being able to pay our bills as we go. This then would mean that by 1959 we should be able to take a large step forward toward self support. The complete and final step then would be one which we feelwould be financially sound. On November 2 the Ladies held their annual bazaar which proved to be a success in all ways. Junior Choir has reorganized and made their first appearance during our Spiritual Emphasis week and will sing again on Thanksgiving and during the Christmas season. We are having our combined Thanksgiving day service with Faith Presbyterian Church and Faith Baptist Church -service will be held at Faith Presbyterian Church. This year we are putting special emphasis on Stewardship for the entire month of November. Sunday morning messages and the monthly family potluck night will-all stress the theme of stewardship. At the family night we are using the filmstrip "Reason for Being." We are planning to have our annual congregation meeting on December 8. We will meet for a family potluck Sunday dinner which will be followed by the business meeting. Plans are being made to take care of the children so this may be a family affair. The Deacons with the aid of the Sunday School teachers in the various departments are making a special effort to see that every memberm, family of children of attending church school, and friends are contacted. The of the new developments in our church is our prayer tree. This was organized and set up under the sponsorship of Mrs. Weeks and the wives of the elders, they included all of the wives of the officers and have worked out a system of whereby a request for special prayer or special announcement from the pastor can be relayed to every member of the church with in a matter of hours. Plans for the Christmas season include a Christmas party, a worship service in the form of a canata for Christmas evening. We wilk have a New Year's eve party and candlelight watch night service.

In His Service

Ralph H. Weeks, Pastor

Woodland Park Presbyterian Church

1957

WOODLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPENARD, ALASKA

I am your Church

I am more than a building, more than an organization, more than a club. I am a fellowship where you find men and women with ideals like your own. I am a threshold over which you step into the presence of God. I am a school where you learn the message of Christ for the world. I am a mirror in which you see revealed what you are and what you could be. I am a worship center where you are challenged to self-examination and growth. I am a laboratory in which you work out the solutions to life's problems. I am a nursery in which your children are prepared for man-hood and womanhood. I am a secret place where sorrow, suffering, and disappointment are understood. I am the creation of the spirit of Christ, the embodiment of his continuing presence. I am the agency of service, the revealer of love, the reminder of law for every man. I am your Church, Christ's Church, but I will have meaning for you only when you are within me, a part of me. I invite you to come in.

- from God Speaks
by Frederick W. Brink

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and other Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven, And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed Matthew 16:13-19 in heaven.

SESSION REPORT

The year 1957 has again shown an increase in the membership of our church. Although we have lost several of our friends we gained more. We increased the membership from 155 of last year to 170 at the present time with approximately 20 new members to be taken in later this month. We are most happy to welcome these new members to our church family and hope we can all grow spiritually together for it is our spiritual life that counts.

This year our minister and his family enjoyed a four month furlough, traveling extensively over the states. It was their first furlough in many years and we feel they greatly benefited by their experiences. We missed them very much while they were away but were very fortunate in having Dr. Burney Shell from Clarksville, Arkansas, here to fill the pulpit, accompanied by his wife. It was a real experience having such a grand couple with us at that ime.

In October our church again participated in the territory wide Presbyterian Preaching Mission, this year known as "Spiritual Emphasis Week." Our guest speaker was Dr. S.J.Russell Ensign from Whittierm California. We were again fortunate in having him with us as we feel he added greatly to our spiritual growth.

Your Session takes this opportunity once again to stress the fundamental principle which your minister and elders feel is the aim of our church - to bring people to Christ. W hope that each os us will strive especially hard this next year to spread the gospel in all walks of life.

Rev. Ralph H. Weeks, Moderator Marian Hill, Clerk of Session Ed Bantz Ray Arnold Francis Graham

Murray Olson Paul Rohwer Fred Yenney

DEACON'S REPORT

During the year of 1957 the Deacons held monthly meetings. They planned and sponsored two receptions for new members. one in April and one in December, also a welcome reception for the Shells and a farewell party for the Ensigns.

The Communion table was prepared by the Deacons at each of the four Communion services.

Visitations were carried on by the Deacons, a number of them being done, during Spiritual Emphasis Week, A note of welcome was sent to each visitor signing the Guest Book.

Merle Graham, Chairman Peggy Sieber Marguerite Mead Wayne Hooks Dewayne Hooks

Doris Vecker, secretary Harry Mead Peter VanKommer Patricia Yenney

We regret to say that the rather optimistic budget for 1957 was not realized. In fact we fell short approximately \$ 6.397.45. Many desireable items were added by the membership at the congregational meeting to the budget which had been recommended by the trustees. However pldeges fell short of the amount necessary to support these items. After cutting expenditures as much as we could without curtailing our program we will still carry over about \$2000.00 of delinquent bills into the new year. We are facing this problem realistically by including in our new budget an item for payment of delinquent bills.

As you have probably noticed, the physical improvements to the church buildings were rather small this year, consisting mainly of reroofing, flooring and painting the chapel. painting the interior of the Sunday school wing, and adding sections to the main boiler. The interior of the mase has been essentially completed as well as leveling and top-

soiling the manse yard.

We are pleased to say that in addition to meeting our routine expenses the church has contributed over \$1600.00 toward our pastor's furlough, we have paid off \$3750.00 in long term indebtedness (bond retirement, mortages and National Board loans), and we hope to very nearly meet our \$1000.00 pleage for benevolences. Our ability to meet this pleage will depend largely on the contribution of the membership to the special Christmas offering.

We wish to advise the membership that we will be unable to become self-supporting in 1958. The National Board of Missions will contribute

\$1,700.00 toward the pastors salary and transportation expenses.

Your trustees propose the following budget for 1958:

Our	World Mission All church benevolences including One Great Hour of Sharing, Ministry to the Servicemen Offering, and Women's Associations benevolence (10% of budget items)	2000.00
Our	Pastoral Ministry Salary Manse Utilities Pension Fund Pulpit Supply Fund Mortage payments on manse Deacon's Eund Subtotal: \$6770.00	3600.00 720.00 600.00 50.00 1750.00 50.00
	Worship and Service Choir and music Printing & Office Supplies Postage Office Secretary Nursery Expense Per Capita Tax Subtotal: \$1845.00	300.00 150.00 100.00 600.00 520.00 175.00
Our	Christian Education Sunday School Other Literature & Advertising Young People's Program Subtotal: \$3550.00	2200.00 850.00 500.00

Our Church Home Bond Retirement	1405.00
Loan Payments to Natl. Board	600.00
Building Improvements	1500.00
Insurance Fuel (exc. manse)	600.00
Other Utilities (Exc. manse)	760.00
Janitor & Supplies	700.00
Snow Removal	150.00
Delinquent '57 bills Contingency Fund(including	2000.00
building repairs)	600.00
Subtotal: \$9835.00	

\$22000.00

1,625.00

1,115.67

This budget represents an increase of about \$3,922.41 over the current year's income. We estimate that at least \$14,000 in pleages will be needed to make the above budget possible. We have considered and rejected many desirable items, and we do not see any way to reduce the budget further without curtailing essential elements of our church program.

TREASURER'S REPORT January 1, 1957 - November 30, 1957

520.00

520.00

150.00

2,436.04

1,750.00

500.00

Bank Balance, 12/31/56 Total Receipts, 1/1/57-11/30/57	1,658.90 16,277.59 17,936.49	
Less Expenditures Balance in Bank, 11/30/57	17,352.91	
Expenditures: Bonds Pastor's Salary Pension Benevolence Choir and Music Sunday School Literature & Advertising Young People Per Capita Fuel Utilities	Budget Estimate 1,424.00 3,600.00 420.00 1,000.00 1,400.00 2,000.00 800.00 750.00 175.00 2,250.00 1,200.00	Expended 945,00 3,600,00 527,85 567,32 136.26 653.54 830.41 200.00 155.00 1,424.93 921.18 628.44
Insurance Postage Janitorial Services & Supplies Deacons' Fund Loans Improvements	100.00 650.00 100.00 750.00 2,000.00	51.00 647.21 22.50 2,067.55 1,234.05

Organist

Furlough

Choir Director

Expansion Fund

Snow Removal

Contingency

At the beginning of the year the Christian Education Committee was enlarged to four members with the addition of Mr. Fred Yenney, to serve on this Committee with Mr. Ralph Weeks, Mrs. Donald Griffith and Mrs. Arthur Reese. Mrs. Griffith serving as contact member for the departments from Junior through Adult, and Mrs. Reese from nursery through Primary. Mrs. Edward Bantz is the Church School Treasurer and Secretary.

The Faith and Life Curriculum is being used throughout the Church School with the exception of the Nursery Department as of October 1, 1957. It was felt that more could be taught and better aids obtained for the child and teacher by using the Gospel Light Material. This

material is now being used in our Nursery Department.

Daily Vacation Bible School was held this summer for the two weeks directly following the dismissal of public school for departments be-

ginning with Kindergarten through Junior.

This past August ten teachers and members from our Church attended the Leadership School held at the First Presbyterian Church in Anchorage. It is hoped that more will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity this coming summer. It is held for one week during the month of August. A very worthwhile week. The help and inspiration received by those attending has benefitted the effectiveness and added much to the teaching in our church school.

We have a fine staff of teachers in our church school and it is with faith and confidence that we look forward to the coming year of 1958, as we continue to teach and introduce our Lord Jesus Christ to each child who comes into our Church School. We will do our part and will you help us help you to continue this teaching by using the helps

and suggestions given in the Prents' Quarterly in your home?

The Church and Home must work together to bring a child to Christ.

Mrs, Arthur H. Reese

NURSERY DEPARTMENT

The Nursery Department met in the Chapel with Mrs. E. G. Boothby

and Mrs. Nels Hautanen in charge.

Since the reorganization of the Church School, the Nursery Department has been meeting in the Education wing of the Church. We have two sessions—one at 9:30 AM and the other at L1:00 AM. Mrs. Raymond Ellis is in charge of the first session with Mrs. Nels Hautanen and Mrs. E. G. Boothby assisting. During the second session Mrs. Ellis Morgan and Mrs. Lloyd Strutz are the teachers.

A large number of the Nursery children were promoted to the Kindergarten Department; but once again we are growing in number. We are pleased with the reorganization into two groups as it divides the number attending into groups that can be given individual attention, closer supervision required by such a young child, as well as giving

us the opportunity to be more effective teachers.

We are gradually overcoming and making adjustments to the physical change that the move created. We are planning our worship center, work, and play areas, and also trying to collect the necessary equip-

ment.

We are now using the plan for three year olds from the Gospel Light Press. This curriculum furnishes the material and direct ions we need in creating a happy learning experience for the nursery child. Through the varied activities, conversation, play and singing we hope to help the children to think about God, to hear about God, to talk about God and to sing about God. We are trying to establish for them

a consciousness of God in every phase of life.

Realizing that evidences of spiritual growth become apparent gradually, not immediately, we as teachers accept the challenge of the year that lies ahead, and pray that we may guide and direct these young lives to the best of our abilities.

Linda Gustafson

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT

The Kindergarten Department under the direction of Mrs. Robert Sieber continued with the department divided into two groups, one for four year olds and one for five year olds until October 1, 1957 with Mrs. C. Proudfoot, Mrs. H. Kenny, Mrs. A. Joy and Mrs. R. Ellis and Janet Griffith with others assisting through the year. October 1, 1957 the Church School was divided into two identical sessions, with Mrs. Chester Proudfoot as general Superintendent. Mrs. Proudfoot, Janet Griffith and Susan Gustafson are in attendance during the 9:30 session, with Mrs. Austin Joy, Mrs. Faye Lovelace, Mrs. Harold Kenny and Mrs. Paul Rohwer serving during the 11:00 session.

There are 32 children enrolled during the 9:30 session and 37 at the 11:00 session. The Faith and Life Curriculum is used in this

department.

Dawly Vacation Bible School for this department was held this summer under the direction of Mrs. Kay Crafton. It was well attended.

Mrs. Robert Sieber resigned as Superintendent of this department as of October 1, 1957. She served in this capacity for four years. We extend our thanks and appreciation to her for her faithful service.

We have been asked to mention the new starting time of the church school sessions, 9:30 for the first, and 11:00 for the second and also urge the parents to make a special effort at getting their child there prior to this time so the child will be ready on time. Many are still arriving 15 and 20 minutes late.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

The Primary Dept. studied "The Church" from the Christian Faith and

Life Series for the year October 1956-1957.

The department had two classes each of first, second, and third grades. The following people taught during this time: Jo Ann Bantz, Pamela Boothe, Evelyn Talley, Deanna McConnell, Mrs. Margene Harper (now returned to the states) and Sandra Mull. Mrs. Copper Meade, and Mrs. Betty Sickmann coordinated the worship.

Two weeks of Vacation Bible School in May gave us the opportunity to work and see our primary children each day. Memory work was stressed in the study of the Church. Joann Bantz and Pamela Booth coordinated work in the first grade, Mrs. Betty Sickmann and Sandra Mull in the second grade, and Mrs. Bernice Jerde, Connie Sieber, and Sharon Anderson in the third grade.

Due to low attendance during the summer, the department combined

to have one class for each grade.

Mrs. Walter Jerde, and Joann Bantz attended the training program at First Presbyterian Church and brought back ideas and new interests for the entire department.

The primary department participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing with much interest. Easter eggs were brought by the children on

Easter morning and delivered to the Alaskan Native Hospital after church services. Some of the children accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Sickmann to the Hospital. Our birthday offerings and Vacation Bible School Offering were given to help toward the purchasing of the new flag. All the children turned in their Jeeps for the Chaplains' Fund.

We entered the fall quarter in renewed vigor with the return of Mr. Weeks, who attended our first meeting. He had a special message for all teachers reminding us of the special work we are doing, and the importance of preparation. Several people have been attending the First Presbyterian background material sessions held once a month. We also have our own meeting once a month to prepare our material and share ideas for presentation.

We are all enjoying the double session. It gives us wonderful

opportunities to do special projects with the children.

This year we are studying the Life of Jesus. The first quarter's work concerns the life of the Jews during the time Jesus was a young boy. We are planning to Stake a Claim in Kanazawa, Japan as we study "Hana's New Home" one of the primary mission stories for the year.

"Hana's New Home" one of the primary mission stories for the year.

At present we have the following teachers in the 9:30 AM session:

JoAnn Bantz, Evelyn Talley, Mrs. B rnice Jerde, and Mrs. Hubert Sickmann. The 11:00 AM session has Pamela Booth, Deanna McConnell, and

Mrs. Fred Yenney. We thank Sandra Mull for her long term of service
we will all miss her.

In Christian Service Mrs. Hubert Sickmann

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

The Junior Department has met in the basement of the manse during the past year. It has had many changes in teachers and classes.

In January the Department started off with an average of about 4Q or 45 pupils under the able leadership of Jim Evenson, Esther Hackney teaching sixth grade, Meryl Graham teaching fifth grade, and Grace Cornwell teaching fourth grade. All went as per schedule until summer as teachers left on vacations and pupils dwindled. During the summer the pupils attended Bible School quite faithfully. As they studied The Church" they chose to use their money to beautify the Church yard and manse flower bed.

Mrs. Shell was the able assistant for all the Department during

July and August.

This fall the department went on the two shift sessions. At present there is an average of about 60 attending the two sessions. The present teachers are Denny Griffith (6th grade), Kay Crafton (5th grade), and Marguerite Mead (4th grade) in the 9:30 session. In the 11:00 a.m. session Lois Phillips teaches 4th grade and Meryl Graham 5th and 6th grade; Marian Hill has charge of music and devotions for the 11:00 session

Merle Graham

JUNIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT

At the beginning of 1957 there were two junior high Sunday School classes, which met in the sanctuary. They participated with the high sphool and adult classes in a brief worship service, led by Mrs. Jean Halm.

The seventh grade class, taught by Mr. Peter Van Kommer, had an enrollment of fifteen and an average attendance of ten during the

first quatter.

The eighth grade class, with a total enrollment of twenty-one and and an average attendance of 12, was taught during the first quarter by Mr. LeRpy Nierstheimer, Mrs. Louise Reynolds, who had taught the class previously, returned at the beginning of the second quarter.

Attendance decreased gradually ouring April and May, especially in the seventh grade. Because of a marked drop in attendance in both classes during June, the two classes were combined through September with Mr. Van Kommer and Mrs. Reynolds dividing the teaching duties. Average attendance was about six during the summer months with a gradual increase in September.

At the beginning of the new quarter in October eleven pupils were promoted to the high school class, and eleven pupils came from the

junior department to junior high department.

At present the seventh and eighth graders are combined in a class which meets in the chapel, with Mrs. Reynolds as the teacher. With twenty-one pupils enrolled, the average attendance in October was eleven and in Nomember the average was fourteen. The class is now preparing to take part in the program scheduled for the evening of December 23.

Throughout the year the classes have followed the Christian Faith and Life program and have attempted to utilize as fully as time permits the materials provided in the reading books, the Teens notebook, and the Vounsel magazine for parents and teachers. An effort has also been made to use some of the additional materials available in the

Sunday School library.

Louise Reynolds

SENIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT

The Senior High Class meets from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the kitchen. The class averages approximately 10 pupils in attendance, although there are 18 to 20 young senior high students who should be attending. As long as the attendance continues around 10 the kitchen is adequate as well as very satisfactory.

as well as very satisfactory.

The texts, "Opening the New Testament" and "This Generation" are well written and inspirational guides for class discussion. Many

challenging as well as thought provoking ideas are suggested.

Although we devote time in class to devotion and prayer, I personally miss the common worship service and singing that we formerly had in the dhapel. I see no possibility for such a service under our present schedule, but would encourage such a service if it is possible in the future.

Teaching the Senior High Class is a challenging as well as rewarding experience. It is also evident that our young people are well founded in Christian principles and training. This is no doubt due to the good foundation laid down in earlier years.

George E.M. Gustafson

ADULT DEPARTMENT

The Adult Class met in the Church sanctuary each Sunday until the new sessions started on October 1 since then they have been meeting in t the kitchen of the Church during the second session of Church school. Sometimes with many, sometimes with few; either way a very inspiring and interesting time of learning has been held. The class has had different teachers throughout the year with Mr. Francis Graham, Mr Hubert Sickmann and Mr. David Brown serving, and with different class members also taking part at teaching.

At present the class is small and Mr. Brown invites your attendance. With a larger group he feels that much more can be done with the lesson material and more can be gleaned from the material which will be a much greater benefit and more helpful for all. Won't you come and join with them?

One project of the whole Sunday Sunday was the buying and presenting to the Church the American Flag. It was presented to the church by Robert Sieber, who represented the church school.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association divided into three circles during the year 1957; the Dorcas circle met at 12:30 the whird Wednesday of each month at a potluck luncheon. The evening or Enfolding Circle met the third Thursday of each month. The morning circle was organized by Ellen

Rohwer this year for mothers with small children.

The entire Association met once a month - the first Thursday of each month at the church for a business meeting. The women served two dinners this year. One was for the newly organized Lutheran Church of Hope and the other a luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church. In July a rummage sale was held in charge on Eva Reese, Ardis Duff and Bernice Jerde. In November under the direction of Mrs. Elton Wieman our annual Bazaar and Dinner was held. It was very successful making a profit of \$614. Under World Service we sent packages and money to Cuba, Germany and the Palmer Hospital.

Peggy Sieber, Secretary

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

This group meets the first and third Mondays of each month, with a potluck supper at 6:30 PM to begin the meetings. The first Monday is business discussion and the third Monday a program is generally planned.

Christian fellowship and Bible study are foremost in this organization's purposel At all the meetings a devotional message is brought

to all of the men attending, to help in their spiritual growth.

The following are some of the Presbyterian Men's activities, and contributions, of labor with estimated cost on the following projects:

Sent one member to Regional Meeting in San Francisco

Sponsored Local Boy Scout Troop #675

Preparing for skdewalks and parking lot at church

Church Manse

Roof shingles on garage
Graded yard and spread topsoil
Floored bedrooms, living room and bath
Redecorated, put linoleum on floor of Chapel
Added three sections to church boiler
Repaired Sunday School roof and installed roof drain
Painted woodwork, walls and cailing of Sunday School room 150.00
Thatalled partition and shelves in Choir room of Church
Total estimated labor expenses

The third Monday evering of each month has truly been enjoyed by the group. Hearing the many inspirational messages given by our guest speakers has made these meetings very worth while.

Respectfully submitted, Wilbur E. Plett, President

WESTMINSTER FELLOWSHIP Junior Hi - Senior Hi

One of the unusual aspects of our Church has been the fact that we have been an organization with very few young people of senior high age. However, with promotion time this year many of our large junior high group stepped forward into the advanced age level. In order to meet this challenge it was necessary to reorganize our youth program. In order for the pastor to be able to help with the youth program, especially the senior high, and yet carry on the Sunday evening program for adults the following schedule was set up. The combined senior highjunior high group meets together at 6:00PM for an hour of recreation under the sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Lekoy Nerstheimer. Through a gift from the Senior High group at College City-Lakeside Presbyterian Church in San Francisco new sporting goods has been purchased. We now have such activities as two alleys of duck pin bowling, deck tennis, super darts and quoits. We have equipment for badminton as soon as we can play outdoors and prospects of a pingpong table. During this hour refreshments are served. At 6:55 we break up to go into individual discussion groups. Mr. and Mrs. Harris lead the Junior Hi group while the pastor and Mr. and Mrs. Nierscheimer work with the Senior His. At 7:55 the groups break up and go into the sanctuary for a half-hour worship service. This half-hour wership service is our Sunday evening service. This new plan seems to be working very well and both groups are growing.

The two groups have taken the responsibility of studying and presenting the Youth Budget Plan for the entire church school. One of their recent projects was their cleaning and painting of the stage; secenery and other materials were re-stored so as to make room for cabinets for the girl scouts and boy scouts. The young men of the two groups have been taking turns in ushering for the evening service.

The Young People have also instigated a plan whereby a committee of representatives from the four local Presbyterian Churches is now

meeting and planning enited meetings for the four churches.
We are in hopes through this new program to reach the needs of our young people during these most important times.

JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir continues to be one of the bright highlights of our Church program. The group sang both at Presbytery and for the Easter morning services. On Easter Sunday the choir appeared for the first time in their new white choir robes. These robes had been made by the mothers of our boys and girls in the choir and by other ladies of the church. This fall the choir sang during the Preaching Mission and at the combined Thanksgiving Day Service. They are now hard at work preparing for the Christmas cantata to be given Christmas Eve.

MINISTER OF MUSIC REPORT

Report concerning the chancel choir.
A nicely proportioned choral group consists of twice as many altos as tenors, half as many sopranos as altos and one bass voice for each

other voice in the group.

At this writing there are 8 active members in the chancel choir of which only one voice is male. A group such as this is quite limited in its cheice of material. It is held to those things which require very little dynamic change and have very little spreading of the harmonic

parts. Obviously one bass voice cannot balance a half dozen other voices. This has been the position of the chancel choir for the last year.

One can see that the choir problem confronting our church is the lack of male and alto voices. One solution of this problem would be to have an interviewing committee appointed who would be other than church members and have some special training from the choir director and who would make it their business to interview members of the congregation at a convenient time. These persons need not know music.

The choir spent very little money on music or any other items this year. There will need to be some new music next year as the present stock of easy numbers have been repeated as much as good listening

will stand.

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One comment on the amount of time allowed for musical expression in the worship service. There are a total of about six hours per week spent in preparation for the music for the service. At present there is an average of 2 minutes and 30 seconds for expression. A good average time for the worship music is 14 minutes in an hour's service which time includes hymn singing. The musicians would like to see some revisions along this line.

Concerning the orchestra.

Since the change of times for the church school there has been no opportunity to use the orchestra.

David Brown

NOV 7 8 1957

Offeace polition to

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Box 55, Wasilla, Alaska Victor C. Urban, Pastor November 13, 1957

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Dr. J. Earl Jackman 156 Fifth Avenue, Room 711 New York 10, New York

Dear Dr. Jackman:

Re: Annual Narrative Report

There has been no appreciable growth in the area of Wasilla, although there are things that would indicate growth in the years ahead. Two guided missile sites have been in the stages of construction. The one being at Goose Bay, approximately 25 miles southwest of Wasilla; the other in the mountains east of Willow. When the White Alice Communication site was constructed close to Wasilla, the people thought there would be a great boom to Wasilla, but that was not the case. A few of the Wasilla men were able to obtain emplowment during the construction period and that was all. The work with the guided missile sites should prove a little different. The men in the area have found employment at these sites, but permenant military personnel are to be attached to the sites. It is expected that 25 men with their families will be stationed at Goose Bay and somewhat the same near Willow. So the Church will have to think in terms of ministering to these people.

Work has also been done on the road from Wasilla to Willow. The road is passable now, but with great difficulty. This road runs somewhat along the railroad line. The people in Willow are looking forward to the completion of this road, so as to have better contact with the valley. At the present, the railroad is the means of transportation to and from Willow.

The Wasilla Church has attracted a few of the new people who are settling in the homestead area beyond Big Lake. We have one family that has been coming quite regularly and another family to start pretty soon. Any new homestead will be taken up in that direction, which is west of Wasilla.

With the striking of oil in the Kenai peninsula by Richfield Oil, there has also brought excitement to Wasilla. Both Union Oil and Richfield have been leasing land in the valley for future oil exploration. If oil is found in a great enough quantity, then Alaska will have e new industry. This will also bring an influx of people to the valley.

During the past year, there has been added to the rolls of the Wasilla Church 8 new members. Four were transferred from the Railbelt Church, two came in by letter of transfer from churches in Pennsylvania and two were accepted into the church fellowship upon confession of faith. Christmas Sunday we expect to take in three of the young people upon their confession of faith.

The big project for the Wasilla Church in this past year was the building of a manse. A great help was rendered by a work team led by Rev. & Mrs. Leonard Boyd. Mr. Boyd, with ll college age young people, stayed with us four weeks in the construction of the manse. They constructed the main portion of the manse. We certainly were very greatful to this work team for this demonstration of their Christian Stewardship of time and talent. We also received a great help from Ruling Elder and Mrs. Bertch from South Pasadena.



In God's providence, Mr. & Mrs. Bertch came and gave two weeks of their time and talent in the building of the manse. Mr. Bertch was a retired building contractor making a tour of Alaska. When he saw we needed supervisory help, he camped with us and gave us this needed help. Without his assistance, the manse, I am sure, would not have been as well constructed as it is. It was a joy to have them with us. Once again we had the demonstration of one's time and talent to the Lord.

The Church participated in the Third Annual Preaching Mission during October. One of the results from this mission will be the organizing of at least one team as a calling or Friendship Evangelism team.

The Church will be having a planning meeting within the week to evaluate it's program and stewardship. The elders, trustees and others officers of the church will spend one Saturday morning in concentration upon "How To Make The Church More Effective In The Community." It is hoped from this meeting, a greater sense of mission and outreach will be germinated.

The work at Curry saw a setback, when the 200 room hotel burned to the ground on April 9 of this year. This saw the power plant being converted to an oil unit. This meant three families had to leave. The Railroad has also closed down section homes, so two more families will have to vacate. Curry is then left with about ten families. This has taken it's toll on the participants in church.

Some of the things which the Wasilla church looks toward in the next year are as follows: finishing the kitchen and bathroom in the church; possible purchase of a small electric organ; and putting on the vestibule to the church. These projects will depend on the availability of money, which is tight all over. The se projects will be a reality for next year.

Sincerely,

Vie

Victor C. Urban

cc: B.H. Cleworth

ANNUAL REPORT NARRATIVE

NOV 1 1954

YAKUTAT, ALASKA

October 29, 1957

Taking a backward and forward look at Yakutat and the work of Joan and myself here as we represent the Board of National Missions of our church we note first of all a continued community deterioration. The fishing seasons steadily continue to get worse each year. This y year the average take per fisherman was only a little over \$ 1,000. of this amount close to \$ 500. is paid back for fishing gear and other necessary equipment. Most people have debts accumulated at the cannery store ranging from a few dollars to \$ 2,000.

For these obvious economic reasons people are moving out and away from Yakutat whenever there is opportunity. The more agressive persons who are the natural community leaders are, of course, the ones who sieze upon the opportunities to move away for better employment. Without leadership community organizations and functions break down. Very few things involving group activity ever get done. When community life breaks down it is naturally accompanied by increasing moral decay. That is true here too.

Exploration for oil continues and has brought in some people to the community, however, they are not of the type who take part in community life and activities. They are thus not a settling influence. Drilling of two of the original three contracted test holes is nearly complete though no significant developments have come forth yet to indicate that there is oil here. Phillips petroleum Co. drilling just west of here at Icy Bay have quit and withdrawn after three years exploratory work there.

At the airfield we continue to have a cordial relationship with the people although there has not been response in church attendance. A good little Sunday School continues there with very high quality Christian training.

A few attractive and substantial improvements have been made in the church building and manse during the past year. A new church building and educational unit is still our dream, but as we look at the present community situational and future prospects we question whether the cost would represent a sound investment.

Looking to the future in the whole of the work of our church here our only hope seems to be in the establishment of a different and more sound economy. At present the only possible prospects are the oil development and the timber. The church is now reaching mostly only the older folk. The young adults are mostly moving away and those who remain we are not reaching to any significant degree nor have they been reached for the past 10 to 15 years. One might say in humble confession that we are only marking time here in this most urgent business of His Majesty, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Claude E. Klaver



Lover